

Patent Application Number: 10/077,888

REMARKS

Claims 2-18, 20-33, 35-44, and 46-56 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 19, 34, and 45 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 15-18, 30-33, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 15-18, 30-33, and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lindegren et al (US-A-5,454,837). This rejection of claims 1-3, 15-18, 30-33, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the teachings of Lindegren et al is respectfully traversed.

As respectfully submitted above, independent claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and originally allowable dependent claim 4 has been amended into independent claim form to include the subject matter of cancelled independent claim 1.

Moreover, as respectfully submitted above, independent claims 15 and 16 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled renumbered dependent claim 19. Also, as respectfully submitted above, renumbered independent claims 30 and 31 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled renumbered dependent claim 34. Lastly, as respectfully submitted above, renumbered independent claim 45 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and originally allowable renumbered dependent claim 46 has been amended into independent claim form to include the subject matter of cancelled renumbered independent claim 45.

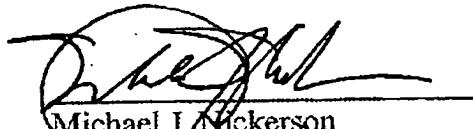
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the teachings of Lindegren et al.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of all the amendments and reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all the present rejections. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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